

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Congenital heart defects are those existing at birth; and,

Whereas, With familiarity of the disorder, more diagnoses are being made of what was not long ago thought to be an extremely rare disorder and not repairable; and,

Whereas, Congenital heart defects are among the most common birth defects and are the leading cause of defect-related deaths.

Whereas, Too many babies, children and adults born with congenital heart defects continue to die due to the severity of the defects, the heart defects not being detected in time, a lack of donor hearts, or failure of the medical intervention used; and,

Whereas, More than 32,000 infants (1 of every 100) are born each year with heart defects in the United States; and,

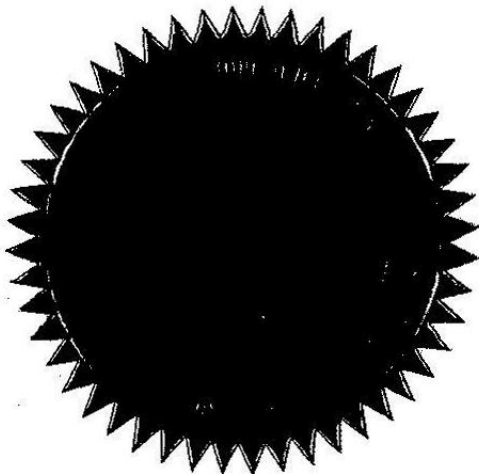
Whereas, Congenital heart defects are being researched by numerous professionals in order to more accurately describe their origin, physical signs and symptoms, and surgical options; and,

Whereas, Citizens should be made more aware of congenital heart defects so that early diagnosis and intervention become top priorities:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim February 14, 2003, as

A Day for Hearts: Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day

in South Dakota, and I urge our citizens to commend this observance.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirteenth Day of January in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State